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NEW YORK, July 15, 1921, No. 96



Published to advance the Science of cold-blooded vertebrates

SMALLEST TARPON

In my note entitled "A Record of Young Tarpon" in *Copeia* of April 25, 1921, I stated inadvertently that "the smallest specimens of record are those taken by Evermann and others in a shallow brackish pool in Porto Rico in February, 1899." As a matter of fact, the small examples taken in the brackish pool at Huacares were not so small as those of 2.25 to 2.35 inches collected at Fajardo by the same expedition. The date and conditions of environment of the latter specimens are not recorded.

R. E. COKER,
U. S. Bureau of Fisheries.

TURTLE HUNTING IN MIDWINTER

Midwinter in New York with the streams and ponds ice-bound seems a most unlikely time to hunt Wood Turtles (*Clemmys insculpta*); nevertheless, a search revealed their winter quarters and we secured a specimen.

On October 12, 1920, the senior writer found two Wood Turtles in a cold, spring-fed stream near Bachus pond, Rensselaer county. The specimens, one of which was captured, were in about eighteen inches of water and were resting, one on top of the other, as in the case cited by Mr. Charles H. Rogers in *Copeia*, No. 47, 1917, p. 74. The late occurrence of this species in the stream suggested the possibility of

their being in search of a place to hibernate. This suggestion was confirmed about December 12, 1920, when the junior author found several specimens hibernating under water in abandoned muskrat holes in the side of a little stream near Defreestville, Rensselaer county. Of the specimens then found, two were saved and brought to the State Museum and the others returned to the stream.

On January 15, 1921, the writers, accompanied by Mr. Lee W. Crittenden of Albany, visited the stream where the specimens had been found in December.

The equipment needed for turtle hunting in winter is simple,—an axe, a bath towel, a Farm Bureau Manager with a Ford Car and a strong constitution being the chief requisites. With the axe the ice was cut from the edge of the stream to permit exploration of the muskrat holes and shallow, water excavated cavities underneath the bank. Stout sticks were used for prodding until something hard was encountered; investigations were then continued by lying prone on the bank and trusting the arm to the shoulder, in the icy water. The bath towel functioned after each bit of exploration.

Several rods of bank in the vicinity of the spot where the turtles had been found in December was searched without results; but upstream, in the mud of the stream bottom and at a depth of about eighteen inches below the surface of the water a large specimen was found by sounding with a stick and was recovered by hand. The turtle, perfectly dormant in the water, showed some signs of life soon after being taken out and a few minutes in a warm room restored it to normal activity.

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A SNAKE NEW TO CALIFORNIA

On March 25, 1921, in the wash from Tahquitz Creek, near Palm Springs, Riverside County, Calif-